

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendm nts and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The new claims 38-52 are supported by the disclosure as indicated in the following annotated version of the claims:

ANNOTATED VERSION OF CLAIMS 38-52 SHOWING SUPPORT THEREOF

38. A local area network comprising:

a plurality of local area network nodes; (FIG. 2A, ELEMENTS 102, 96, 80, 76)

an Ethernet switch assembly complying with the IEEE 802.3 standard (ELEMENT 90; PAGE 2, THIRD COMPLETE PARAGRAPH; PARAGRAPH BRIDGING PAGES 4 & 5); and,

communication cabling (92, 104 IN FIG. 2A) connecting said plurality of nodes to said switch assembly for providing data communication;

said Ethernet switch assembly comprising:

line interface circuitry (181, FIG. 3) coupling power into the communication cabling, over pairs used for Ethernet communications, substantially without interfering with data communication (PAGE 15, FIRST SENTENCE; PAGE 5, 2ND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH);

a controller (186 IN FIG. 3, THIRD PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 15) governing the supply of power to at least some of the plurality of local area network nodes via the communication cabling; and,

current limiting circuitry (182 IN FIG. 3; PAGE 15, SECOND PARAGRAPH) connected to the line interface circuitry and controlling current delivered by the line interface circuitry into the communication cabling,

wherein said Ethernet switch assembly is operative to provide at least some power to at least some of said plurality

of nodes via said communication cabling (PAGE 15, LAST PARAGRAPH),

said current limiting circuitry being operative to provide a current limit level for each node (PAGE 15, SECOND PARAGRAPH).

39. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein the current limiting circuitry also comprises current sensing circuitry operative to perform current sensing for each wire pair within the communication cabling. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 2, FIRST SENTENCE).

40. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein the current limiting circuitry also comprises maximum current level management circuitry operative to maintain at least one maximum current threshold level. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 2)

41. The local area network according to claim 40, wherein said at least one maximum current threshold level is fixed. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 2)

42. The local area network according to claim 40, wherein said at least one maximum current threshold level is system-controlled. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 2)

43. The local area network according to claim 40, wherein the controller is operative to perform status reporting. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 3)

44. The local area network according to claim 43, wherein the status reporting comprises reporting on power consumed by each channel within the communication cabling. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 3)

45. The local area network according to claim 43, wherein the status reporting comprises reporting on channel failures. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 3)

46. The local area network according to claim 40, and also comprising a management station wherein activation status of individual nodes can be programmed by a network administrator providing suitable commands via said management station.

(FIG. 2A, ELEMENT 164; PAGE 18, SECOND AND THIRD COMPLETE PARAGRAPHS)

47. The local area network according to claim 40, and operative to disconnect faulty nodes. (PAGE 18, THIRD COMPLETE PARAGRAPH)

48. The local area network according to claim 38, and also comprising a management unit via which minimum and maximum current threshold reference levels of power supplied to at least one of the nodes are set. (PAGE 15, PARAGRAPH 2)

49. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein an LAN protocol is defined over the network, the LAN protocol comprising an IEEE 802.3 protocol operating at 10 Mbps and wherein said Ethernet switch assembly is 10BaseT compatible. (PARAGRAPH BRIDGING PAGES 4 AND 5; FIRST COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5, SECOND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 14).

50. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein an LAN protocol is defined over the network, the LAN protocol comprising an IEEE 802.3 protocol operating at 100 Mbps and wherein said Ethernet switch assembly is 100BaseT compatible. (PARAGRAPH BRIDGING PAGES 4 AND 5; FIRST COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5, SECOND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 14).

51. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein an LAN protocol is defined over the network, the LAN protocol comprising an IEEE 802.3 protocol operating at 1000 Mbps and wherein said Ethernet switch assembly is 1000BaseT compatible. (PARAGRAPH BRIDGING PAGES 4 AND 5; FIRST COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5, SECOND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 14).

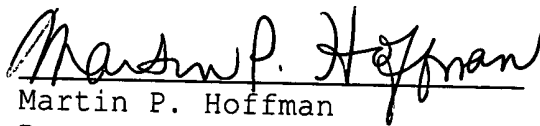
52. The local area network according to claim 38, wherein an LAN protocol is defined over the network, the LAN protocol comprising an IEEE 802.3 protocol operating at one of the following bitrates: 10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, and 1000 Mbps; and wherein said Ethernet switch assembly is 10/100/1000 BaseT

compatible. (PARAGRAPH BRIDGING PAGES 4 AND 5; FIRST COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5, SECOND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 14).

If there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this patent application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martin P. Hoffman", written over a horizontal line.

Martin P. Hoffman

Reg. No. 22,261

HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, P.C.

2361 Jefferson Davis Highway

Suite 522

Arlington, VA 22202

(703) 415-0100

Attorney Docket No.: A-8708.C/PA